PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Paterson Public Schools Announces Significant Growth in NJ State Assessment Scores

District outpaces state growth in ELA, Math, and Science proficiency gains.

Paterson, NJ (September 4, 2025) – Paterson Public Schools saw improvements in student proficiency on the 2024–2025 New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA). The NJSLA measures student performance in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science. An overview of the results was presented at the Board of Education Workshop meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2025.

"We know our students are very capable and these results show the commitment of our principals, teachers, and students. Every percentage point represents more children on the path to success. We will continue to use this data to guide instruction, strengthen interventions, and ensure that every student in Paterson has the opportunity to meet and exceed our expectations," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell.

"Our progress reflects the focused work taking place across the district through the Paterson Progress Plan (PPP)," said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rodney A. Henderson. "By strengthening five key levers - human resources, data literacy, staff capacity, principal capacity, and family and community engagement, we are beginning to see consistent, measurable growth. These gains tell us that we're heading in the right direction, and they challenge us to keep pressing forward so that even more of our students reach higher levels of success."

English Language Arts (ELA)

The district showed marked improvement across several grade levels in ELA, with all subgroups making gains. The district-wide aggregate for grades 3–8 increased in proficiency from 23% in 2023–2024 to 27% in 2024–2025. This 4% increase outpaced the state's growth of 3% for the same grade levels.

- Third-grade ELA proficiency increased by 5%, from 17% to 22%, exceeding the state's 1% growth.
- Fourth-grade ELA proficiency grew by 7%, from 20% to 27%, more than double the state's growth of 3%.
- Eighth-grade ELA proficiency increased by 5%, from 29% to 34%, surpassing the state's growth of 4%.

Mathematics

Students in grades 3–8 showed a 4% increase in Mathematics proficiency, rising from 13% in 2023–2024 to 17% in 2024–2025. This is greater than the state's 2% increase for the same grades.

- Third-grade Mathematics proficiency increased by 3%, from 20% to 23%, compared with the state's 2% increase.

- Fourth-grade Mathematics proficiency grew by 6%, from 14% to 20%, triple the state's growth of 2%.
- Fifth-grade Mathematics proficiency increased by 4%, from 11% to 15%, matching the state's growth.

Science

The district's overall Science proficiency for grades 5, 8, and 11 rose from 3% to 6%. This 3% increase outperformed the state's 2% growth.

- Fifth-grade Science proficiency increased by 3%, from 7% to 10%, compared with the state's 2% increase.
- Eighth-grade Science proficiency grew by 2%, from 2% to 4%, while the state remained flat.
- Eleventh-grade Science proficiency increased by 4%, from 2% to 6%.

"Paterson Public Schools is celebrating important progress, but we know our work is not finished," said Joanna Tsimpedes, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services and Special Programs. "We have to look closely at what is driving these gains so we can build on our strengths, while also identifying where additional support is needed."

For more information about Paterson Public Schools visit our website.

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves over 26,000 students from pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey's third-largest city. About 70.6% of the student population is Hispanic, 16.3% are Black, 6.5% are Asian, and 5.0% are Caucasian. Recognizing its proud traditions, diverse community, and strong partnerships, the mission of Paterson Public Schools is to provide an academically rigorous, safe, and nurturing educational environment that meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The district is committed to preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. Despite the Paterson community being classified as low-income, many of its students achieve high academic success. A growing number of elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and enrolling in college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools is distinguished as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey to offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program and is among just four districts with a P-TECH high school. In collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, the P-TECH program allows students to graduate with an associate degree in applied science and valuable tech sector experience. For more information, visit www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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